

where we can begin to enhance state aid to our schools and to continue to work at basic school finance reform. LB 662 does this, it says, until March 1989 county reorganization committees shall meet and have the opportunity to voluntarily reorganize all school districts so that all free standing Class I school districts, that is all Class I school districts that are not in Class VI school districts, shall be merged or consolidated with neighboring Class II, Class III, Class IV or Class V school districts. And in the event that a merger plan is not voted...is not made by the county reorganization committee and approved by the voters pursuant to our statutes, then by September 1st, 1989 the state reorganization committee shall effect that reorganization mandatorily. It shall be done mandatorily. So what will happen is that by September 1989 we will no longer have any free standing Class I school districts with those school districts providing only for the direct education of children from kindergarten through 8th grade. By September 1, 1989 all children will either be in Class II, Class III, Class IV or Class V school districts or the alternative will be in a Class I school district that has a Class VI overlay, that has a Class VI overlay. With the committee amendment just adopted, once that reorganization is effected, if that school board in the reorganized school district has the temerity to move to close the old Class I school, that old country school that each one of us respects, that can't be done. That cannot be done until the voters that reside in that former Class I district give the green light to the closing. Under the Senator Howard Lamb amendment, if the folk in that old Class I district believe that that new school board is shortchanging, if they believe it is shortchanging that old Class I school by not providing reasonable educational opportunities for the children in that Class I school, they may go to court. They now have a legal cause of action against their school board, for their school board to be compelled by court to provide the finances and amenities required by the children that live with them. Now that is the nature of the bill. It will be discussed at length. This is a...virtually every other state that has had to face a school organization issue over a period of time has ended up providing for mandatory reorganization and people in those states have gone through pain and turmoil and trauma but in the end when the tasks are accomplished those states are now in a better position to augment and enhance the financing of education so that all children in that state